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RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 0060
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TALLINN 000620

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STATE FOR EUR/NB KATIE GARRY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/19/2009
TAGS: PGOV PREL EUN SY IS LE EN
SUBJECT: ESTONIA SUPPORTS EU BORDER MISSION FOR LEBANON

REF: STATE 128335

Classified By: DCM Karen Decker for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

(C) On September 14, Poloff delivered reftel points to Tonu Miller, MFA Security Policy Officer, to urge support for European Union (EU) efforts to help secure the Lebanon-Syria border. Subsequently, Miller told us that the Government of Estonia's (GOE) is in full agreement with the USG regarding the EU border mission and the MFA had incorporated U.S. points into comments the GOE raised at the EU's September 14 Political and Security Council. The GOE representative argued that monitoring the Lebanon-Syria border is an ideal European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) mission as the EU has extensive knowledge of the region and expertise in border monitoring. "Due to the domestic sensitivities in Lebanon," Miller explained to us "the key question for EU members is the timing of the mission." However, Miller told us that while there is general consensus in the EU in support of an ESDP mission in Lebanon, discussions are still in the preliminary stages. The GOE will continue to press within EU fora for the EU to take a lead role in the region.

PHILLIPS